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## PRESENT WAR A SETTLEMENT OF OLD QUARRELS

Natural Ending of Long-Standing Ill Feeling Between Austria and the Slav Nations.

LONG HISTORY OF INTRIGUE

Game of Diplomacy Played by the Czar and Francis Joseph Has Hitherto Been Won by the Latter, But Today Conditions Are Changed.

Washington.—Russian diplomacy, intruding in the Balkans, may largely be blamed for the present Austro-Serbian or Austro-Slavic situation, for while it in appearance is a quarrel between the little Slavic state of Serbia and the great empire of Austria-Hungary, in fact it is a quarrel of long standing between Austria and all the Slav nations, not excluding Russia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, once Serbian provinces, in 1909 belonged to Turkey, although they were occupied by Austrian troops and in every way but on paper were parts of the Austrian empire. Austria had been quietly planning to annex the two little Slavic provinces for some time, but could not quite see her way clear to do it without arousing the strenuous protest from the powers. When the Turkish constitutional revolution took place in 1909 Austria saw her opportunity and took advantage of it. She maintained that because Bosnia and Herzegovina under the new Turkish regime would have to send delegates to the Turkish Parliament it were better that Austria annex them, which she promptly proceeded to do in face of the protests of Russia, France and Great Britain.

Bowed to Superior Force.

It was maintained by the powers that Austria's act in annexing the Slavic provinces was a violation of the agreement made at the general European Congress which met at Berlin shortly after the Russo-Turkish war. Austria remained firm, however, and when the powers became threatening Germany came to Austria's aid. Germany was prepared for war, as was Austria. Great Britain, France and Russia were not prepared for war, and with both Austria and Germany facing them they were compelled to submit to Austria's seizure of Bosnia and Herzegovina and accept their humiliating defeat with as good grace as possible.

What Russia could not do by force of arms she then proceeded to do by intrigue and diplomacy. Secret agents were sent into all of the Balkan states and into those provinces of Austria and Germany populated thickly with Slavs. Ever since that time a constant campaign to arouse the Austrian and German Slavs has been maintained by Russian secret agents.

Dissatisfaction and revolution was fermented among the Slavs of Austria by Russian agents, and it is even said that Russian secret agents aided in the formation of Slavonic societies in Austria and Germany the objects of which were the freeing of the Slavic provinces now under Teutonic rule and the formation of a great Slavic empire, for which the Balkan league was to be the foundation. Russian diplomacy brought about the alliance of Balkan nations for the war with Turkey, in which war little Serbia greatly distinguished herself.

Austrian Diplomacy Strong.

The fine hand of the Austrian foreign office was seen in the Balkan plot, however, soon after the defeat of Turkey. Both Austria and Germany had confidently expected to see Turkey the victor, and it is said that the Teutonic diplomats were sadly disappointed at the outcome. Austria hurried herself immediately, and by the exercise of either a finer or more subtle brand of diplomacy than that exercised by Russia, succeeded in convincing the powers that Albania, which had been taken possession of by the Servians, should be made an independent kingdom, but in reality under Austrian and German domination. Consequently the Serbs were relieved of part of the fruits of victory and a German prince, William of Wied, was installed as King of Albania with the consent of the powers in the face of the diplomatic opposition of Russia. Unable to help themselves Serbia and the Balkan nations were compelled to acquiesce.

Work Against Balkan Alliance.

In the Balkan league, however, the triple alliance, composed of Austria, Germany and Italy, found a valuable adjunct of the opposing powers, the triple entente, composed of Russia, Great Britain and France, since the Balkan league had been the outcome of Russian diplomacy. Austria then set about to smash up the Balkan alliance. The result of this was the second Balkan war, in which Serbia and Greece, with Montenegro, were pitted against Bulgaria. The latter country was given all possible assistance by Austria, but Austria was again due to be disappointed, for Bulgaria was sorely defeated.

Besides her troubles abroad, Austria was having difficulties at home. Nearly half of Austria's population is Slavic,

## Events That Have Led to the Conflict in Europe

The causes of the war which has set all Europe ablaze are as follows:

The century-old hatred of the Serbs and the Austrians, each for the other, growing out of the struggle of the Serbs for unity and freedom, in which Austria, through her possession of Servian provinces, effectually bars the way.

The impassioned rage of the Servians that they who have thrown off the yoke of the Turk in territory once held by the sultan, have been unable to win one foot of ground or a single subject from the dual monarchy.

The deep resentment of Austria at the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne, on June 28, through a Servian plot, which brought all the long smoldering bitterness of the two peoples to a climax.

The ultimatum delivered to Serbia by Austria demanding punishment of the archduke's slayers.

Servia's reply, termed by the Austrian Foreign office "unsatisfactory."

Precipitation of France, Germany and Italy into the crisis by Russia's determination to block any change in the balance of power in the Balkans.

The known purpose of Russia to use all her armies to this, and makes that great empire in effect an ally of Serbia, and in turn draws France to support the Russian standard through an offensive and defensive alliance.

Russia's espousal of the Servian cause automatically brings into play the triple alliance, in which Germany and Italy are bound to rally to the support of their ally, Austria.

ic, although, of course, the ruling forces are Teutonic and Magyar, or Hungarian. The Serbs of the various Slavic provinces of Austria were fermenting revolution. Serbia was dreaming of regaining Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian intrigue was making trouble, and Austria's aid of Bulgaria had alienated the affections of Roumania, which hitherto had been friendly to the triple alliance, but which now practically became a part of the triple entente.

Austria's Small Victory.

As a result of it all, Austria gained but one small victory. By causing the formation of the Albanian kingdom, Austria had prevented Serbia from obtaining a seaport, the principal ambition of the Slavic monarchy. But in doing this Austria brought herself into complication with Italy, which country had cast envious eyes on Albania, and it looked for a time as if there would be serious clashes between the two nations.

Austria then found herself in a somewhat precarious situation. She was threatened with destruction, intrigue, diplomacy and revolution. On her border she was threatened by Serb and Roumanian. Russia was a serious danger in the North. Austria's only salvation was Germany, and if Germany would stand by Austria, it was the opinion of Austrian statesmen that it would be better for Austria to settle the Slav question at once with her armies rather than wait and perhaps be destroyed in the long run. A demand for war became strong. News papers and public men were practically demanding a test of strength between the triple alliance and the triple entente, when the Archduke Ferdinand was slain as the alleged result of a Serb plot, hatched, it was claimed in Serbia. Austria promptly seized upon this as a pretext for demanding a "show down."

Situation Different From 1909.

The situation had changed since 1909. Russia was prepared for war and it was believed would welcome it. France was preparing for war, as also was Great Britain. If Russia came to the aid of Serbia, it was certain that Germany would mobilize her armies in support of Austria. Germany in the field would be certain to bring France into the situation, with a view to avenging herself for the Franco-Prussian war. Great Britain then would be expected to stand by her allies of the triple entente. Diplomats also argued that Great Britain would consider that Austria and Germany opposing Russia, France and the Balkan States, might triumph, leaving England alone to face the question of German expansion, and that therefore it would be better for Great Britain to take part in the war and aid Russia, France and the Balkans in putting a final end to German and Austrian power in Europe.

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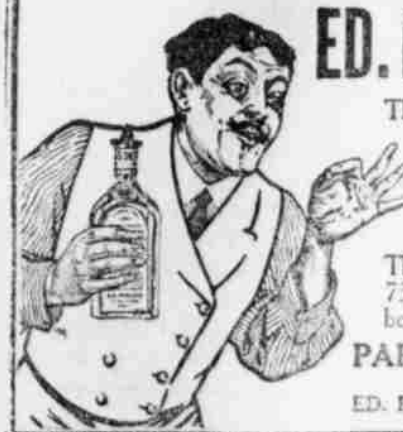
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